

asylum dysentery in whom peripheral neuritis occurred in both legs, and in whom there was analgesia and diminished electrical response. He has also recorded cases of lead insanity with neuritis, for whom the electric bath treatment was applied. Tiling, of Riga, quoted by Smith, suggests that polyneuritis might result from loss of blood, puerperal toxæmia, auto-intoxication, metallic poisoning, and other causes. Cases of typhoid fever with the condition referred to have also been described, but the amnesic mental condition of alcohol was not present. Whether a "polyneuritic psychosis" really occurs in association with multiple neuritis and characteristic of it appears unsettled. Kraepelin suggests that the mental disturbance in these cases is not due to the neuritis, but to the effect upon the brain of the same agent which had affected the peripheral nerves. In the case above described the peripheral changes were very marked, but there was no co-existing or characteristic mental condition.

(¹) "Peripheral Neuritis and Insanity," *Brit. Med. Journ.*, August, 1900.

Occasional Notes.

The English Archives of Neurology.

The second volume of the *Archives of the Pathological Laboratory of the London County Asylums*, edited by the director, Dr. Mott, very fully justifies the hopes, that were expressed at the establishment of the laboratory, of most important help in the advancement of psychiatric science.

This volume is a monument of the vast amount of clinical and pathological matter that is at the service of Dr. Mott and his able coadjutors; of the huge amount of work achieved in the laboratory, as well as of the careful critical faculty and great ability in lucid exposition possessed by the editor and principal contributor.

The relation of syphilis to general paralysis, which Dr. Mott has, from the outset of his work, steadily pursued, is still the leading subject. Dr. Mott devotes an article of over three

hundred pages to the exposition of his views that general paralysis is etiologically identical with tabes dorsalis. His views are supported by valuable papers from Dr. Joseph Shaw Bolton and from Dr. George A. Watson.

Dr. Bolton also deals with the morbid anatomy of mental disease in general, and Dr. Tredgold treats of the importance of alcoholism and tuberculosis in the production of idiocy and imbecility; and there are other papers of the utmost value and importance.

These various contributions will be dealt with in reviews, and we can only draw the attention of our readers to the great importance of this work.

At last it may be said, without undue exaltation, that England possesses a school of neuro-pathological research which need not fear comparison with the best of its Continental contemporaries; and it must not be forgotten that this is due to the liberal public spirit of the London County Council and to the broad-minded initiative of our medical *confrère*, Sir William Collins.

The Family Care of the Insane.

Our honoured foreign colleague and associate, Dr. Jules Morel, Physician and Director of the State Asylum at Mons, has, in the Belgian retrospect which appears in this number of the JOURNAL, given an account of the sessional work done at the meeting of the International Congress for the Care of the Insane held in Antwerp, September 1st to 7th, 1902. It was a notable meeting of a notable body. Belgium has been ever remarkable for the work done at Gheel, and since the foundation in recent years of the new colony at Lierneux these two institutions have been the main attraction which that country has offered to those who are practically interested in the care of the insane. At the meeting in last September the question of family care was naturally the main topic, the thread round which hung all the discussions. What has been done in this direction met with the enthusiastic and almost unanimous approval of the alienists who were present, and many proposals were considered for extending and widening the application of